1-5-84

Tuition protests to kick off new year

Demonstration to mourn 'dying' colleges today

By MARY CRONIN, News Editor

Two major demonstrations are scheduled to be held today to protest the lack of funding for the state's community colleges.

The "Day of Protest" will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Monarch Square, where students, faculty, and other school employees are being urged to convene at the flagpole in Monarch Square where a coffin will be displayed to illustrate the potential demise of the community colleges, which have suffered massive budget cuts because of the impasse between the governor and the legislature over the issue of fees in the schools.

Protesters have been asked to wear black arm bands and place messages to Sacramento demanding full community college funding in the coffin.

Valley's AFT Chairperson Sylvia Lubow said that the pupose of the demonstrations is "to bring the plight of the colleges not only to the public, but also to Sacramento. There still seems to be a great deal of confusion in Sacramento, where some people are laboring under the illusion that we're really not so bad off.

"Our fear is that the community colleges are dying, quality education is dying, and these deaths are imminent unless we get money.

"We are desperate. . .and will be even more so come February when the 500 classified workers are laid off. Frankly, I don't know how we're going to function.

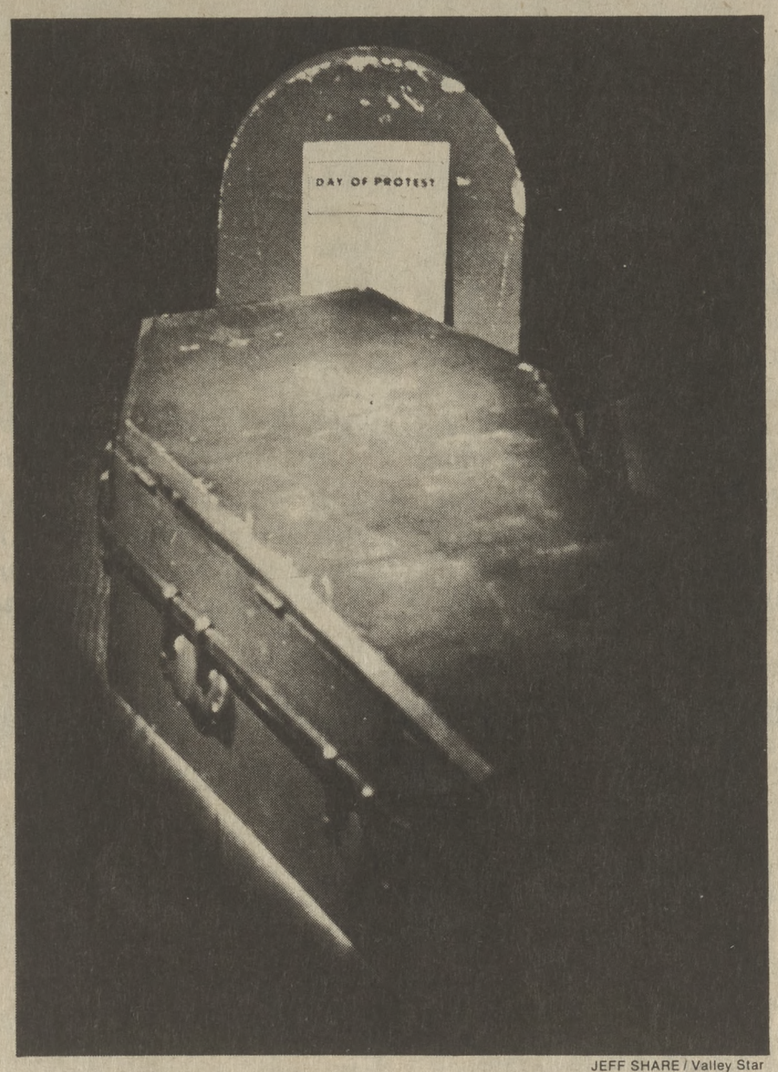
"To blackmail us with tuition," said Lubow, "in order to get funding is totally inappropriate."

The demonstration is being sponsored by a coalition of the Certificated and Staff units of Valley's AFT College Guild, the Faculty Senate, the Student Body Senate, the Cafeteria Workers Local 999, and the Supervisory Employees Local 347. The Theater Arts Department and the Music Department are also involved in preparations for the protest.

Speakers, who will begin at 11 a.m. will include Valley philosophy professor Patrick Maguire and Hillel's Rabbi Jerrold Goldstein.

A district-wide protest will be held beginning at 1:30 p.m. in Lafayette Park in west Los Angeles. The location for this demonstration was chosen because of its proximity to Gov. Deukmejian's Los Angeles office.

Speakers scheduled for this rally are Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees President Marguerite Archie-Hudson, an ardent supporter of tuition-free community colleges, and William Robinson of the California Labor Federation.



JEFF SHARE / Valley Star

MAJOR UNDERTAKING—The sponsors of today's "Day of Protest" hope this coffin will serve as a dark symbol of the deterioration of the community colleges as well as a receptacle for messages to Sacramento from those who want to see funds and quality restored. It will be on display at the flagpole in Monarch Square.

Students to converge on state capitol steps

By DAVID BOHRER, Associate News Editor

Nearly 100 Valley College students are expected to march on Sacramento with students from across the state on Monday, Jan. 9 to protest the possible imposition of tuition at California community colleges.

"Our purpose," said Jerilyn Stapleton, event coordinator and Associated Student Body commissioner of women's concerns and studies, "is to impress upon the governor and to ask him to release the basic funding for the California community colleges without imposing tuition."

Stapleton emphasized that this was the most crucial decision in nearly a century for community colleges. "Starting tuition," she said, "changes a tradition of free education, and if imposed, will change people's lives."

The tuition battle was originated early last year and followed with a tuition rally here at Valley.

During the rally, state senators and others urged students and faculty to unite and converge on Sacramento in January to protest the proposed fees for community colleges.

Speakers at the rally held here in October included Sen. Art Torres (D-Los Angeles), who spearheaded the community college anti-tuition movement, Sen. Alan Robbins (D-Van Nuys), Assemblyman Gray Davis, and Marguerite Archie-Hudson, president of the Los Angeles Community College District, all of whom spoke out strongly against tuition and are scheduled to attend the Sacramento rally.

Valley students who attend the rally will be given free transportation to and from Sacramento.

Funding for the day-long event has been donated by the legislature, several different labor unions, and $1,000 was recently donated by the American Federation of Teachers College Guild.

The buses from Valley are currently scheduled to leave at 10 p.m. Sunday night, and arrive in Sacramento for breakfast at 7 a.m. Monday morning. Following breakfast, students will break up into lobbying workshops, in order to teach students the process in which to lobby their representatives. They will then march approximately one mile to Sacramento where students will be given a chance to talk to their representatives.

"All we are doing is trying to make a statement," said Stapleton. "The legislature and governor have not seen any student mobilization and the whole point of doing this is to prove to them once and for all that we as students do not want tuition."

Vol. 35 No. 14

Van Nuys, California

Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley College

Thursday, January 5, 1984

Final Examination Schedule

Fall 1983 Semester
Thursday, January 19 - Friday, January 27

The date of your final examination is determined by the **first day** and the **first hour** your class meets.

Final examinations MUST be held on the DAY AND TIME scheduled, and in regularly assigned classroom.

Classes which meet only one day per week (modular classes) will have their finals at the regular class meeting time between January 19 and January 27.

Classes of less-than-semester length (4, 5, 6, 8, or 9-week classes) will have their final exam at the last meeting of the class.

All 4 p.m. and evening classes will have final exams the first class meeting after January 18.

All Saturday classes will have final exams on January 21, the same time as regular class.

CLASSES MEETING ON	7 a.m. & 7:30 M or W or F	7 a.m. & 7:30 TU or TH	8 a.m. & 8:30 M or W or F	8 a.m. & 8:30 TU or TH	9 a.m. & 9:30 M or W or F	9 a.m. & 9:30 TU or TH
FINAL ON	**Mon. Jan. 23 8-10**	**Thurs. Jan. 19 8-10**	**Wed. Jan. 25 8-10**	**Thurs. Jan. 26 8-10**	**Fri. Jan. 20 8-10**	**Tues. Jan. 24 8-10**
CLASSES MEETING ON	10 a.m. & 10:30 M or W or F	10 a.m. & 10:30 TU or TH	11 a.m. & 11:30 M or W or F	11 a.m. & 11:30 TU or TH	12 or 12:30 M or W or F	12 or 12:30 TU or TH
FINAL ON	**Wed. Jan. 25 10:30-12:30**	**Thurs. Jan. 19 10:30-12:30**	**Mon. Jan. 23 10:30-12:30**	**Tues. Jan. 24 10:30-12:30**	**Mon. Jan. 23 1-3**	**Thurs. Jan. 26 10:30-12:30**
CLASSES MEETING ON	1 p.m. or 1:30 M or W or F	1 p.m. or 1:30 TU or TH	2 p.m. or 2:30 M or W or F	2 p.m. or 2:30 TU or TH	3 p.m. or 3:30 M or W or F	3 p.m. or 3:30 TU or TH
FINAL ON	**Fri. Jan. 20 1-3**	**Thurs. Jan. 19 1-3**	**Wed. Jan. 25 1-3**	**Tues. Jan. 24 1-3**	**Fri. Jan. 27 8-10**	**Thurs. Jan. 26 1-3**

In case of conflicts or for makeup exams—see instructor

Class cuts cause confusion during spring registration

By FRANN BART, Staff Writer

You've just located the class you need for the new semester on the big board in Monarch Hall. It's closed. Closed? In only the first three days of registration?

No, there hasn't been an unprecendented rush on the class. It, as well as many others, is printed in the spring schedule, but because of budget cuts has been yanked from the curriculum.

The official word is that some of these classes may be reinstated when the term begins – and some are even opening up again now.

If this sounds confusing, it's nothing compared to what Valley's administrative officers are going through.

According to Lois A. Lewis, dean of instruction, the drop list is being updated daily. Every Monday a new list will be available during registration.

"Conditions are changing every day," Lewis said. She explained that a set amount of funding was given to Valley for this semester's schedule. Within this framework, Dean Edwin Young must decide which classes to cut and reinstate. So far, about 60 day and evening classes have been cut.

Lewis said the criteria for class cuts depends on several factors including low enrollment figures for the same class last semester and classes taught by part-time hourly rate teachers who will be laid off.

As to classes being restored, much depends on the number of students enrolling this semester, Lewis explained. When enrollment is completed, decisions to restore more classes will be based on whether there is an enrollment increase.

Other considerations are whether the classes are required for transfer or essential for an Associate in Arts degree.

For now, Lewis' suggestion to students needing a cut class is to keep checking the drop list and the board each week in Monarch Hall. If your class is reinstated, it won't be on the list and will appear on the board as "open." She said you should then attempt to contact the instructor or department chairperson about adding the class. If you can't track them down, go to the first class meeting and try to add.

Perspective

Koltai: 'Financial fiasco' does not diminish optimism

This is another in a series of profiles featuring some of the people who affect the quality of life at Valley College.

By JEFF SHARE, City Editor

Exuding "a fundamental optimism that this crisis we are in will pass," Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Chancellor Dr. Leslie Koltai, recently said that his primary goal is to "rebuild this district."

For the past eleven years, the Hungarian-born Koltai has been chancellor of the LACCD and has seen the district grow to become the largest community college district in the world.

Now faced with a "financial fiasco," he still refuses to sway from his stand opposing tuition.

"I don't believe that the governor politically can carry this liability even if he says that regardless, rain or shine, I want tuition. I think that the tuition is a knee jerk reaction by the governor."

Emphasizing that tuition is not a financial issue but a philosophical one, Koltai recalled a conversation he had with Speaker Willie Brown. He said, "Willie Brown indicated that very soon they will announce a $1,750,000 surplus."

To back up his words of optimism, he called attention to a study which shows that "in almost every state the community college funding is going up." California and Oregon are the only "two states in the whole nation where the funding is going down."

For Koltai, who taught journalism at Valley in 1959, being chancellor "is like being the mayor of a city" with a population close to 225,000. With "the educational process itself in the classroom," he sees that his role is to "develop the environment where teaching can take place."

Reacting to John McCuen, president of Long Beach City College, and Koltai's one-time vice-chancellor's statement, "In many cases it [the proposed emergency loan fund to be introduced in the legislature this month] just rewards bad management," Koltai said, "Based on that statement he should resign. I think that he should be investigated for charging illegal fees at Long Beach City College."

According to Koltai, by charging for material fees, class fees, and accepting the drop fee in advance, "they are charging fees that they are not entitled to."

The December *Los Angeles Times* study describing the average California community college student is particularly offensive to Koltai. He believes that "everything the *Times* indicated about that study is outrageous, untrue, unreliable and we are going to answer it."

With statistics of his own, Koltai compared the article to his findings in the LACCD. The district has 27 percent more minorities and 19 percent more families with incomes less than $12,000 than the *Times* reported.

Koltai said that the study is not an accurate portrayal because of the very selective choice of colleges surveyed. "The college they picked from our district is Pierce."

Looking for fresh approaches to current fiscal problems, he said, "We are urging each college to form their own foundation and get involved with fund-raising." He said that fund-raising is the responsibility of the colleges because "people are not going to give money to a district but they will give money to a college."

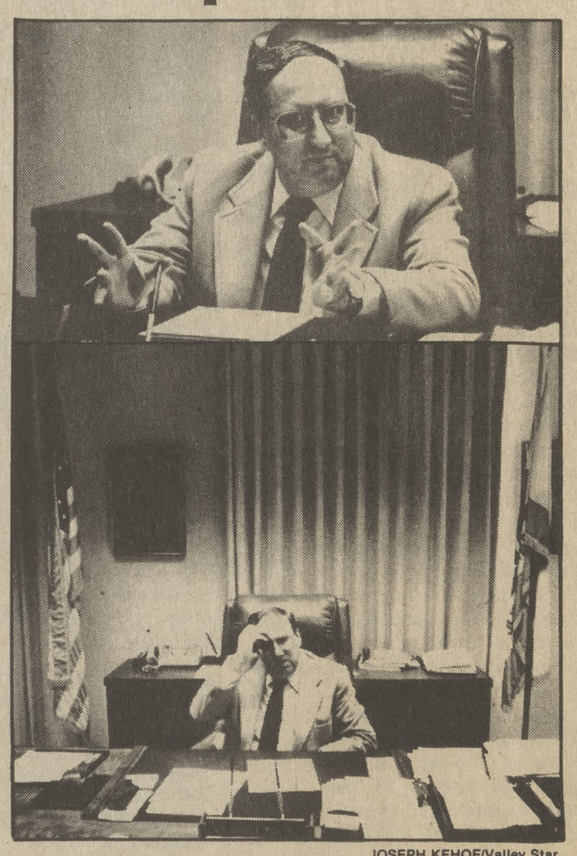
The future of community colleges is seen by Koltai as having significant improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. "The community college is the best educational system for the future." He calls it "short cycle education."

"The community college, because of its technical know-how and its access to the market, is going to be the dominant educational delivery system for anybody who has objectives below a masters level.

"The cost of education is going up so fast in the state of California. . .that the community college is going to be totally acceptable." Koltai sees the LACCD "as a ten college district. Mission College is here to stay," and he also feels that he will revive Metropolitan College. "Tomorrow they can go out with new bids [for Metropolitan College] and we can be the lowest bidder."

With abundant optimism, Koltai said, "Sooner or later we will talk about the possibility of helping other nations to build community colleges or actually have contracts with other nations to conduct college education."

Koltai said that his greatest failure is that he was unable to detect anything about Gov. Deukmejian's views of community colleges. "What he [Deukmejian] said is education is my priority, and God save us if education continues to be his priority."



JOSEPH KEHOE/Valley Star

STAR EDITORIALS

The college newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the College, or any officer or employee thereof.

Wake the fuck* up!

* Ob●scene (adj.) / abominable; disgusting; repulsive.

Obscenity is running rampant in California.

Assuming a wide range of guises, it eminates from the governor's mansion and has a trickle-down effect on the people of the state. It is not, however, a vulgarity of words but of thoughts, attitudes, and actions. No, the words always sparkle and speak of liberty and justice.

Gov. George Deukmejian calls education his top priority, and yet he has done more to jeopardize the future of higher education in this state than anyone else in the last 15 years. In the face of a $3 billion state surplus, he continues his economic blackmail of California community colleges.

The students of this campus have been repeatedly warned of the threat tuition poses to the future; most of them are even philosophically opposed to student fees. And yet, when the time comes to do something about it, they slip into apathetic stupors or feelings of impotence, letting someone else worry about it—people recognizing a wrong but doing nothing to prevent it.

That is the true obscenity permeating this state.

But there is one more chance. Today, here at Valley College and across the street from Deukmejian's downtown office, and Monday, in Sacramento, are days of protest.

If you don't participate, no one else will.

If you don't care about paying $100 a year for your inherent right to an education, then perhaps you might care to think about your children, 10 years from now, who will have to pay $1,000 or more. Think about it. Think about it . . .

WAKE UP!

Layoffs unnecessary

We hope that the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees got a calculator for Christmas.

Then again, they could count on their fingers and figure out that it is not fiscally necessary to execute their proposed plan to lay off hundreds of valuable district employees.

When the board voted in October to lay off 500 district workers, the members of the board stated that the layoffs would offset the district's $29 million budget deficit by $6 million.

At that time, accusations were made that the layoffs were not a budgetary necessity but a publicity maneuver by the board to make Sacramento aware of the dire consequences of witholding state community college base funding.

At the last board meeting, Vice Chancellor of Business Services, Thomas Fallo announced that, by various measures, the deficit had been reduced to $3 million without taking into account the savings that would occur if the layoffs are made.

It doesn't take a mathematical genius to figure out that a) if layoffs are truly necessary, only half of the proposed 500 jobs need to be cut, and b) if Fallo can come that close to balancing the budget without layoffs, then surely a way can be found to make up the $3 million without devastating layoffs.

In the meantime, the district is losing essential employees who would rather find work elsewhere rather than continue to be pawns in the board's continuing budget battle with Sacramento.

The board should rescind its layoff plans immediately.

Letter to the Star

'Demagoguery'

Editor:

The organizers of the Ernesto Cardinal event (Tuesday, Dec. 7) would like to respond to the lies and demagoguery of the *Valley Star's* Dec. 15 issue.

Nobody from the *Valley Star* spoke with CISPES president Dorothy Moore. She never stated that there was any confusion regarding security or that any funds were raised for the Nicaragua Solidarity Brigade.

In fact, the security was well organized and well controlled. Everybody was quite clear on their particular job and all was carried out smoothly without any particular problems.

The funds that were raised were given directly to Cardenal which was stated to the audience before they were asked to contribute.

Campus police Captain Wally Gudzus said that, "He (Farrel Broslawski) is the one who took care of the inside while it was anticipated that my officers would stay outside on the perimeter for crowd control."*(Valley Star,* Thursday, Dec. 15; pg. 1, col. 5).

This clearly shows that those "red and black armbanded ushers" that Mary Cronin (news editor) wrote about did not simply conduct themselves as "self-appointed security guards." The people who were removed from the audience were rejected solely on the basis that they insisted on carrying placards with sticks into the auditorium which could have been potential weapons.

Regarding the safety of the audience, the city fire marshall was present throughout the program and his instructions were followed at all times.

The last demagoguery comes from the editor-in-chief. The point that he attempts to make is that this event had no political aspects and that it "turned into a maudlin...wasted opportunity." He fails to see that Cardenal's poetry and politics are inseparable.

Since we do believe that the editor is sincere in his concern (with) the importance of informing the American public on the issues of Central America, and since the readers of this paper are an important part of the American public, why have we not seen articles regarding the improvements that the revolution has brought to Nicaragua, or articles about the struggle of the people of El Salvador, or articles about Guatemala: the greatest human rights violator in the region?

In (the) future, we hope that instead of concentrating on destructive criticisms and lying that the *Valley Star* will inform (Valley) students of the just struggle of the people of Central America.

Bilhan Kirbas,
vice-president, CISPES

Dorothy Moore,
president, CISPES

Editor's note:

These charges of "lies and demagoguery" merit further scrutiny.

In their letter, top CISPES executives Dorothy Moore and Bilhan Kirbas assert that security for the Ernesto Cardenal event well organized and well controlled. Everybody was quite clear on their particular job..."

Yet Moore herself admitted (at an ASB Senate meeting last month), "There were so many factions that were inside it's hard to break down who exactly did what." (Valley Star, Thursday, Dec. 15; pg. 1, col 4). Without a coordinated delegation of security duties, how could it be definitively claimed that "all was carried out smoothly and without any particular problems."?

For example, the ejection of people from the audience who "insisted on carrying plackards with sticks into the auditorium," was carried out by security persons with no authority to do so.

"The authority to remove a person is and should be in the hands of the campus police or the seargent-at-arms," said Campus police captain Wally Gudzus (same article as above). "We felt that they (Broslawsky's people) were there primarily as ushers, not as enforcers. Technically, they have no enforcebility. They have no authority."

As for the collection of funds during the event, the Star does not question the manner of solicitation or the worthiness of the cause, but the legality of procedure. Valley College rules state that to solicit donations on campus one must have permission from the Office of Student Affairs. Dr. Pauline Merry, vice-president in charge of student affairs, said she was never contacted by CISPES for such authorization in this event.

Death penalty: morality or murder

'Killers' forfeit right to life

By LISA SHAMES, View Editor

After two years and some $2 million dollars of tax payers' money, Hillside Stranglers Angelo Buono and Kenneth Bianchi both received life sentences. After being convicted of killing and torturing some 10 women these so-called "men" are being allowed to live.

Just calling them murderers wouldn't be enough. They went beyond murder and even beyond torture. But they still didn't receive the death penalty. Torture, unthinkable inhuman treatment more accurately describes the style of killings occuring today.

Something must be done. Robert M. Bloom Jr., convicted of killing his father, stepmother, and stepsister, and who insisted on and finally received the death penalty, has an answer.

"People are too soft on crime," he said. "My position is that if you do the crime, be prepared to do the time. Pick up a gun and kill someone, be prepared to die for it."

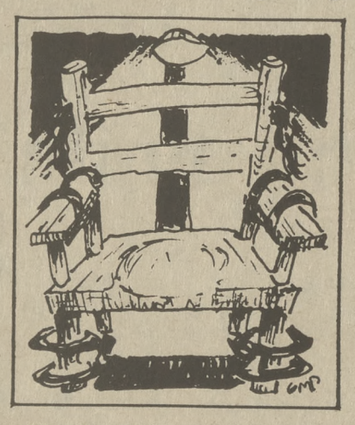
Years ago, I was anti-capital punishment. "Why kill any more,?" I reasoned."What does it solve to kill someone else?" Over the years, after hearing the endless accounts of murders—multiple and vicious—my views have changed. When I think of a Bianchi or Buono I now say, "Why not kill them?"

Some may say I am heartless, cruel or have no compassion, but I do have compassion—but not for the murderers. I have compassion for the victims and their families. It's not a pretty sight, the thought of someone literally frying in an electric chair, but the picture of a young girl or boy being strangled and sexually abused is not any prettier.

In some cases, the victim almost gets off easier. They don't have to live with the pain and gruesome memories that their families and loved ones do. When a person is murdered, there is more than just one victim. All those close to the person become "walking wounded." Their lives will never be the same again.

I would much rather give my tax dollars to the needy or to the families of the victims, than provide room and board for the likes of Lawrence Bittaker, Charlie Manson, and the Son of Sam.

I am not for the "eye for an eye" mentality. I do believe in rehabilitation, but not miracles. But in some cases I feel capital punishment is necessary.



But even with the death penalty, as of October 1983, there are over 1,230 convicts on death row and only eight have been executed since 1967. What does it take to get the death sentence? Obviously, as in the case of Buono or Bianchi, 10 murders is not enough.

Capital punishment does have its faults—it doesn't guarantee to deter murders. Innocent people could be executed and some groups, especially Blacks and the poor will most likely be most affected. Something has to be done.

Our present system just isn't working. We can't keep patting these criminals on the back, locking them in their "rooms" and telling them to just think about what they have done like some bad little boy.

The death penalty isn't concerned with preventing future murders, but lies with the killers themselves. By their unforgiveable actions—multiple murders, rape, torture—they have forfeited their right to live in society.

Emotional gut reaction≠ justice

By JOSEPH KEHOE, Editor-in-Chief

It takes several years from the time a convicted capital offender is tried to the time he is finally executed. In the interim, the state goes out of its way to give the appearance of a cool, impartial instrument of justice, from the endless appeals it patiently hears to the clinical method of execution.

But while outward appearances might suggest that considerable thought is given to the serious nature of the punishment to be inflicted, in fact, the decision to kill is made in a primodial second in which modern man unleashes his age-old lust for vengeance.

In short, the only reason the death penalty remains in existence is because it is emotionally satisfying. Everything else is rationalization.

The proponents of capital punishment insist that there is great deterrent value in this type of punishment. Historically, however, the death penalty has never been a deterrent.

Eighteenth century England is the prime example of the failure of retributive justice taken to its illogical extreme. At a time when over 200 crimes were punishable by death, including the one they committed, pickpockets would have field days at the expense of their fellow criminals who were executed before large crowds.

The state long ago realized the ineffectiveness of this form of punishment. In a shroud of secrecy and shame, executions are now carried out behind closed doors and are surrounded with a sanitized aura. No attempts are made to have this most powerful of all deterrents televised.

Still, even if capital punishment were a deterrent it would not be justified.

To put someone to death in order to prevent a crime at some future date that may or may not be committed is losing sight of the issue—the issue is not deterence but justice. But is capital punishment just?

Here we must examine the eye for an eye philosophy that states that what one does to another shall be done to him. However, first degree murder seems to be the only crime for which this solution is sought. There are no cries that convicted prostitutes should be made to pay for their sex or that convicted rapists be raped or that arsonists have their houses burned down. That the state should involve itself in prostitution, rape, or arson is out of the question, but somehow it is acceptable when it engages in killing.

However, the greatest argument against the death penalty comes form the irrefutable fact that human justice is fallible.

There are numerous examples of men being wrongly convicted of crimes they never committed. How can such a form of punishment be deemed just when it involves the inherent possibility for error? How can a society even pretend to hold a reverence for justice after it puts to death an innocent man having known full well beforehand that this was a possibility?

Filled with an instinctual urge to "see them pay," we are all repulsed by the Charles Mansons and the William Bonins of the world. But we must remember, as difficult as it may be at times, that vengence does not equate justice and that government has no place aping murderers.

LETTERS

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Letters submitted should be limited to 350 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed, and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Bring letters to the Valley Star office, Business Journalism 114, by 11 a.m. Monday for the following Thursday.

Valley Star

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YEARS MAY COME, AND YEARS MAY GO, BUT I'M STILL HAPPY WITH MY ALPO

JENNIFER MESENBRINK/Valley Star

Predicting Valley's future in 1984

By FRANN BART, Staff Writer

A skeptic is a person who would ask God for his I.D. card.
—Edgar A. Shoaff

The new year is here once again. Resolutions are made and then forgotten amid hectic lives and the passing of time.

Many changes will occur at Valley College this year. And let's face it, most of us would rather bypass the "hopefullys" and "maybe's." We want *promises*. We want *guarantees*. We want *to know*.

To this end, we consulted famous Van Nuys psychic/crystal gazer Madame Fuul-em-Goode. After a lot of gazing, she came up with the following predictions that will affect Valley in 1984:

CLASS SCHEDULES-Many classes will be merged instead of cut from spring and fall schedules. English 2 and English as a Second Language (ESL) will become English, Too. Concert Choir and Computer Science will be offered as Computer Choir. Other subjects with similar content will be taught as one to save money.

TRANSFER STUDENTS-Effective fall semester, all transfer students will be routed through Cleveland.

NIGHT SCHOOL-Madame declined comment on this. She said she has trouble seeing into the dark.

LACCD-The Los Angeles Community College District will be named the official community college district of the 1984 Summer Olympics.

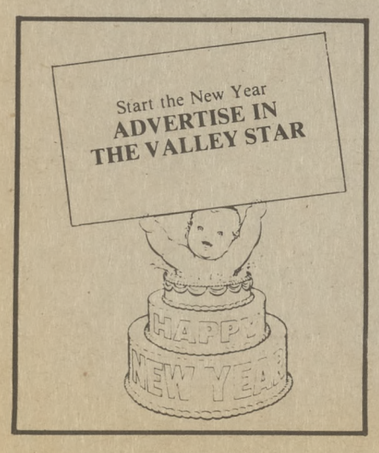
FINALS-Finals will become an elective course.

TUITION-Grenades, fires, bombs, screams, wounded, etc. She refused to elaborate on this vision, but it seemed to make sense under the circumstances.

TEACHERS-Due to the massive lay-offs of part-time hourly rate teachers, Valley's cat community will emerge from the bushes and work for their Kal Kan and milk. For the time being, cats will teach tennis and water sports.

SPORTS-Valley's baseball team will offer to recruit Steve Howe as a relief pitcher on the condition he pay for his own nose drops.

VALLEY STAR-The Valley Star will feature more celebrity exclusives, TV/Cable listings, and a Sunday edition.



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Tracey & Heidi, thanks for everything, I hope we can do it again sometime **Buffo.**

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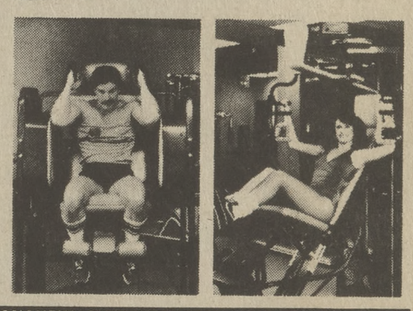

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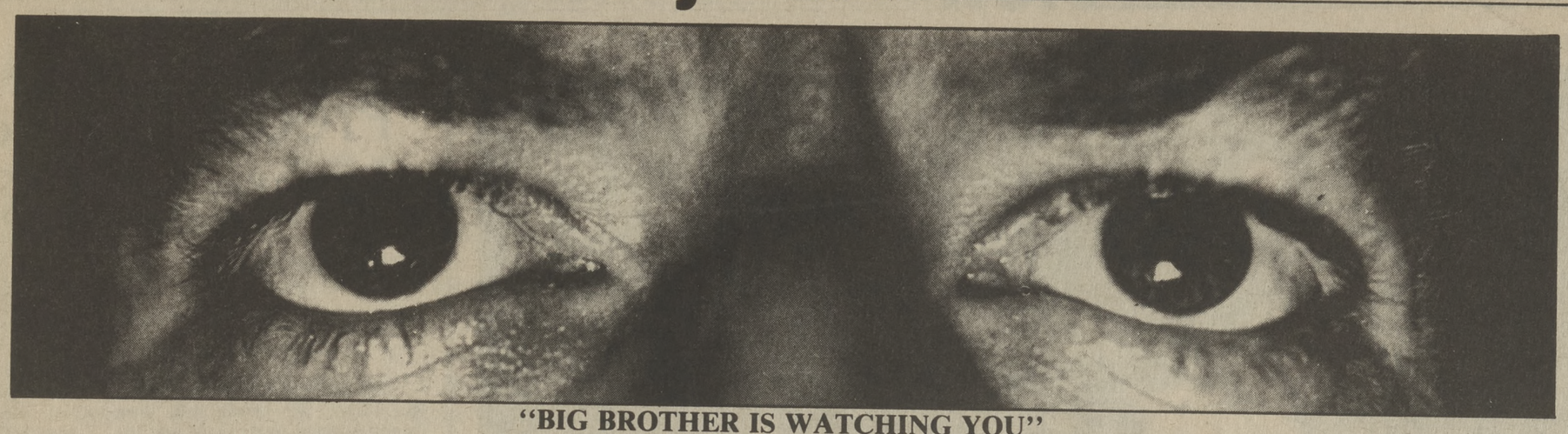
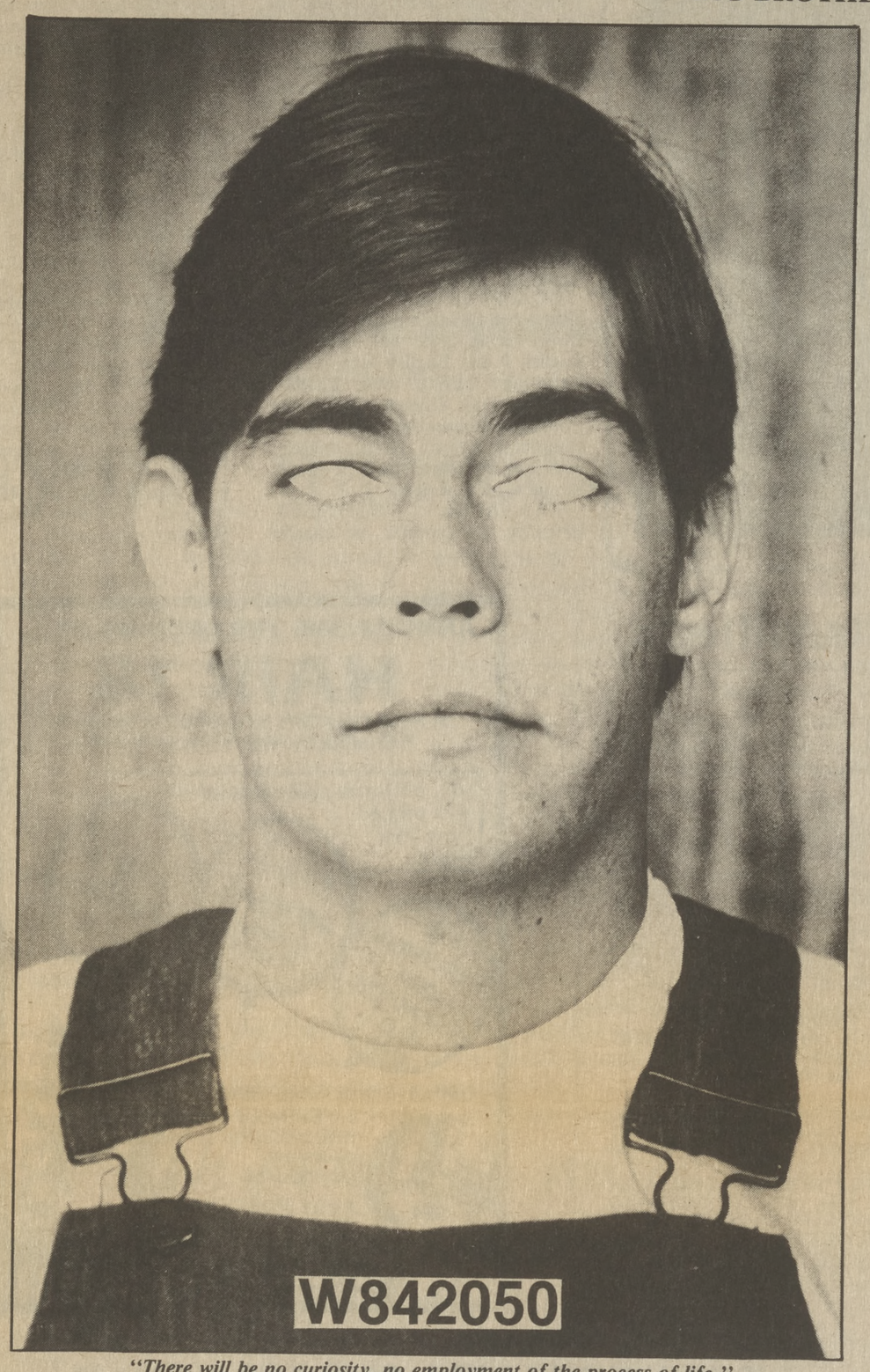
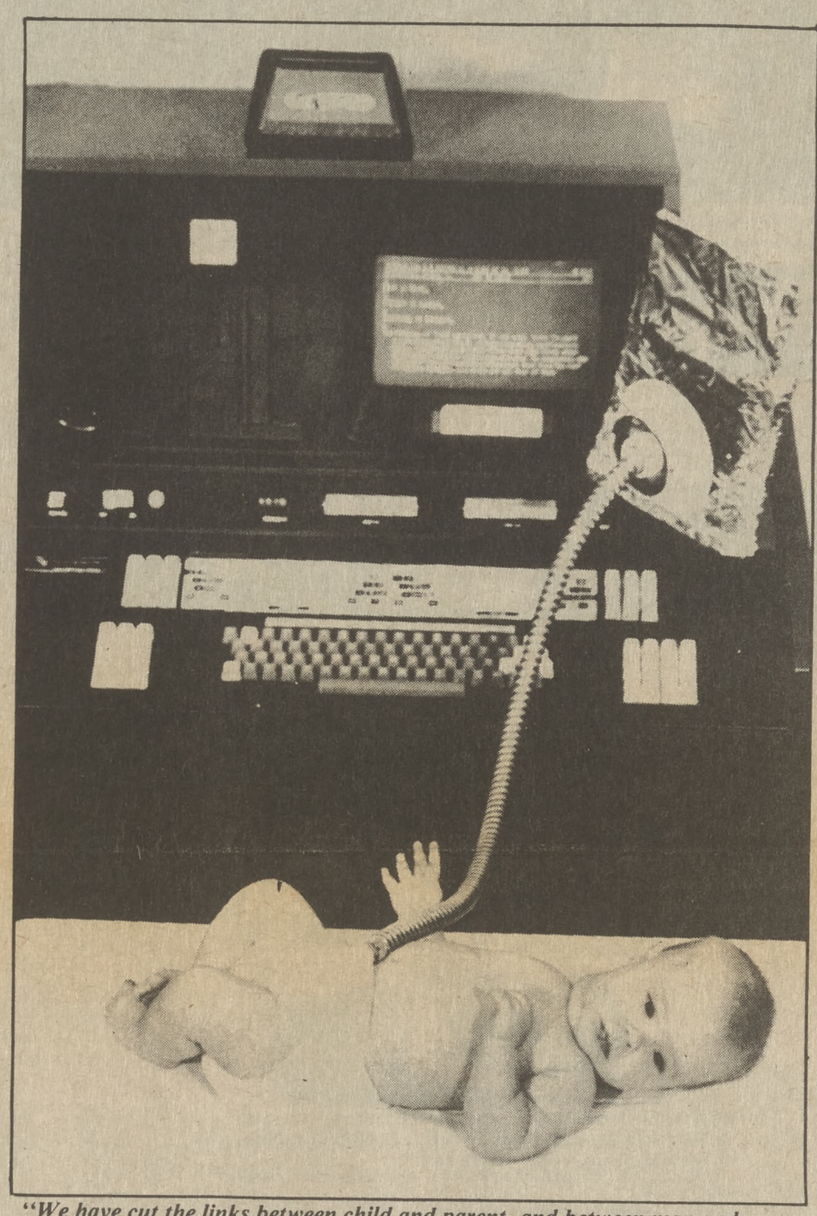


"BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU"

Orwellian 1984: paranoia or prophecy?



"There will be no curiosity, no employment of the process of life."



"We have cut the links between child and parent, and between man and man, and between man and woman."

Photographs and text by Jeff Share
(Special thanks to Peter VanDolah)

"The earthly paradise had been discredited at exactly the moment when it became realizable . . . human equality was no longer an ideal to be striven after, but a danger to be averted."

These words and the quotes under each photograph were written by George Orwell 35 years ago in his novel "Nineteen-Eighty-Four."

Orwell portrayed the year 1984 as a negative utopia. "A world of fear and treachery and torment, a world of trampling and being trampled upon, a world which will grow not less but more merciless as it refines itself."

He envisioned a totalitarian state that seeks power entirely for its own sake. Orwell defined power as being control over the human mind.

The book describes many tactics used to reach this ultimate goal.

Constant surveillance by two-way "telescreens" watch your every move, while huge posters of "Big Brother" watching you are plastered everywhere.

Books, newspapers, films, and photographs are destroyed or altered to present history as a controlled substance.

To strip away basic human emotions, the family is broken up. "Sexual intercourse is to be looked on as a slightly disgusting minor operation, like having an enema."

For Orwell words were also a big part of the control. By eliminating or changing the meanings of words that describe concepts that have been eliminated (i.e. freedom, love), people would have no reason to question anything.

The book "Nineteen-Eighty-Four" contains penetrating insight and foresight of the human condition. It is also a very pessimistic look at a possible fate of mankind.

Perhaps the greatest benefit served by Orwell's masterpiece is that it is not as much a prophecy, as it is a warning to us all.

"The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became truth."

"If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face-forever."